(a) the total population of states of Gujarat and Rajasthan covered under the Revamped Public Distribution System;

(b) whether Government have received complaints and suggestions from the State Governments in respect of the Revamped Public Distribution System;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) the quantity of the commodities made available to these States for distribution under this system during 1993-94 and so far during 1994-95 State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) In Gujarat and Rajasthan about 86.18 lakhs and 195.74 lakhs people respectively are covered under RPDS as per 1991 census.

(b) and (c) The Revamped Public Distribution System was launched in the country in 27 States/UTs in 1992 in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations. The progress of this scheme is monitored by the Central Government in terms of points of action and targets set by the States/UTs themselves. The suggestions/views/Complaints of the States/UTs in implementing the scheme are discussed periodically with them in various form like Advisory Council, regional meetings, etc. for taking necessary remedial action.

(d) The quantity of commodities allocated to Gujarat and Rajasthan during 1993-94 and 1994-95 is as under:—

('000 tonnes)

Year	State	Wheat	Rice	Sugar	Edible Oil	Kerosene
1993-94	Gujarat	642.00	414.00	208.88	6.00	786.03
	Rajasthan	1140.00	84.60	218.22	1.40	285.70
1994-95	Gujarat	481.50	310.50	149.94	21.30	513.66
(upto Oct., 94)	Rajasthan	978.96	34.00	157.94	0.00	197.33

Proposal to Permit States to Import Palmolein

1705. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give permission to individual State to import Palmolein;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal has been received by Government from Gujarat for the import of Palmolein; and

(d) if so, the action taken so far in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Inadequate PDS Coverage of the Poor

1706. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem in the 'Statesman' dated 20th October, 1994 captioned: "PDS coverage of poor inadequate";

(b) if so, whether it has been revealed through a study that programmes meant for weaker sections are not properly implemented;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(d) what concrete steps Government propose to take to implement various consumer oriented schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d) The newsitem refers to a study conducted by the National Council of Applied Economic Research. The study has identified several shortcomings in programmes meant for the

weaker sections including the Public Distribution System (PDS). The operational responsibility for implementing the PDS is with the State Governments/ UT Administrations. The Central Government has been reviewing the functions of the PDS with the States/UTs for improving the functioning of the PDS. With a view to improving the reach of the PDS to the economically disadvantaged regions of the country, the Central Government in consultation with the State Governments launched the Revamped PDS in about 1752 Blocks in the country. In the Blocks covered under the RPDS, foodgrains are made available at specially subsidised Central Issue Prices which are Rs. 50 per quintal less than the Central Issue Prices for normal PDS areas. During 1994-95, Central Government has earmarked 3.2 million tonnes over and above the normal allocations made by the States/UTs, for distribution in RPDS areas. Under the RPDS, most of the States/UTs have constituted Vigilance Committees at the fair price shop level for ensuring peoples involvement in supervising the distribution of PDS commodities.

Newspaper Report on Vanaspati Oil

1707. SHRI O. P. KOHLI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Vanaspati Telon ki gunvatta sambhandi adhiniyam sudhar" appearing in the "Dainik Jagran" dated the 26th November, 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the orders on the subject are likely to be issued and the safeguards provided for their not being misused; and

(d) the list of the items in respect of which the standards and norms of quality have been prescribed and made operative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Notification was issued by the Government of India on 23rd April, 1990 under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 making it compulsory to market Blended Edible Vegetable Oils only under Agmark certification. The Notification also provides for necessary safeguards against possible misuse of the provisions of the said Act.

(d) The standards and norms of quality have been prescribed and made operative in respect of five items the description of which is given in the statement enclosed. (*See* below).

Statement

Grade	Description
1. Refined Blend-A	The blend shall be the admixture of any two refined edible vegetable oils excepting rice-bran oil where the proportion by weight of any of the individual oil used shall not be less than 20 per cent.
2. Refined Blend-B	The blend shall be the admixture of any one of refined edible vegetable oils with refined rice-bran oil where proportion by weight of any of the two individual oils used shall not be less than 20 per cent.
3. General Blend-A	The blend shall be the admixture of any one of raw edible vegetable oils with any one of the refined edible vegetable oils excepting rice-bran oil where the proportion by weight of any of the two individual oils used shall not be less than 20 per cent.
4. General Blend-B	The blend shall be the admixture of any one of raw edible vegetable oils with refined rice-bran oil where the proportion by weight of any of the two individuals oils used shall not be less than 20 per cent.
5. Standard Blend-A	The blend shall be the admixture of any two raw edible vegetable oils except rice-bran oil where the proportion by weight of any of the two individual oils used shall not be less than 20 per cent.